

Remarks

The following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed August 29, 2006. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period. Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

The telephonic Examiner interview of November 21 between Examiner J. Pascua and Kevin J. Hubbard is noted with appreciation. The pending claims were discussed with respect to International Publication No. WO 93/19991 to Husnu, US Patent No. 3,545,669 to Kinkade, and US Patent No. 5,704,543 to Pollanen. The combinability of such references was also discussed with respect to the obviousness rejections of the final Official Action of August 29, 2006. In response, the Examiner identified US Patent No. 5,213,258 to Kim and US Patent No. 759,382 to Klugh. Amending the claims to recite features illustrated in the exemplary reusable envelope shown in Figure 2 of the present application was also discussed. No agreement was reached.

Please amend independent claims 1, 22, 32, and 39. Also, please cancel claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

In the final Official Action claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 and the dependent claims thereof were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 93/19991 to Husnu in view of one or more of US Patent No. 3,545,669 to Kinkade and US Patent No. 5,704,543 to Pollanen. In response, it is respectfully submitted that the present claim amendments overcome the obviousness rejections of the final Official Action. Specifically, claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 now recite reusable envelopes having a removable portion that provide both an address region and a postage region. Such claimed removable portion is not disclosed, taught, or otherwise suggested in any of the Husnu, Kinkade, and Pollanen references or the Kim and Klugh references. Allowance of claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 and the dependent claims thereof is therefore believed in order and respectfully requested.

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In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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